



DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

June 2011

U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



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Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Cotton and Wool
- Vegetables and Melons
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Regional Approaches to Rural Development

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR119

ERS assesses the initial rural economic outcomes of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) in *Impacts of Regional Approaches to Rural Development: Initial Evidence on the Delta Regional Authority*.

Per capita income, net earnings, and transfer payments grew more rapidly in DRA counties than in similar non-DRA counties, and those impacts were stronger in counties in which DRA spending was higher. Each additional dollar of DRA spending was associated with an increase of \$15 in the growth of annual personal income from 2002 to 2007, including an increase of \$8 in annual earnings (primarily in the health care and social services sector) and an additional \$5 in annual transfer (Government) payments (mainly due to increased medical transfer payments such as Medicare and Medicaid). Investments supported by the DRA in improved medical facilities, and DRA efforts to increase the supply of health professionals, may be promoting additional health sector earnings and medical transfer payments.



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Relative Prices of Healthy/Less Healthy Foods: Do They Vary Regionally?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB78

Although healthy foods can be affordable, if less healthy foods are cheaper, individuals may have an economic incentive to consume a less healthful diet. In *Geographic Differences in the Relative Price of Healthy Foods*, we explore whether a select set of healthy foods (whole grains, dark green vegetables, orange vegetables, whole fruit, skim and 1 % milk, fruit juice, and bottled water) are more expensive than less healthy alternatives. Not all healthy foods are more expensive than less healthy alternatives; skim and 1 % milk are less expensive than whole, and 2 % milk and bottled water are generally less expensive than carbonated nonalcoholic drinks. We also find considerable geographic variation in the relative price of healthy vs. less healthy foods. This price variation may contribute to geographic variation in diet and health outcomes.

Tobacco Policy Reform: Farmers Adjust

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB77

The Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004 eliminated tobacco quotas and tobacco price supports and allowed producers to plant any amount or type of tobacco regardless of geographic location. Without tobacco quotas, producers were freed from tobacco planting restrictions that limited the amounts and types of tobacco that could be marketed in a geographic region. In *Policy Reform in the Tobacco Industry: Producers Adapt to a Changing Market*, ERS analyzes tobacco producers' adjustments in production, investment, labor requirements, and contracting practices following elimination of tobacco quotas and tobacco price supports.



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Why Have Food Commodity Prices Risen Again?

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS1103

This report describes the factors that have contributed to the large and rapid increase in agricultural prices during the past year. It focuses particularly on food commodity prices—which have risen 60 percent since June 2010.

International Food Security, 2010 Update

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/GFA2101

This report is an update to the July 2010 report, *Food Security Assessment, 2010-20*; it reviews the impact of high global food commodity prices on food security in 2010 in 70 lower income countries using actual 2010 price and food production information.

Brazil's Cotton Industry:

Economic Reform and Development

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CWS/2011/06Jun/CWS11D01

Brazil was a major market for U.S. cotton in the 1990s and is a major competitor for cotton sales today. ERS identifies the factors in Brazil's development as the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter.

Brazil's Ethanol Industry: Looking Forward

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/BIO02

This report profiles and analyzes Brazil's ethanol industry, providing information on the policy environment that enabled the development of feedstock and processing sectors, and discusses the various opportunities and challenges to face the industry over the next decade.

European Debt Issues: Implications for U.S. Exports

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS1102

ERS focuses on the Eurozone sovereign debt problems and how they could affect the European Union and U.S. agriculture and agricultural trade. Alternative outcomes are examined that consider economic growth, exchange rates, and investment.



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